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**Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2012
3-4:30 PM
President's Conference Room, Green Hall**

Attendance: Provost Don DeHayes, *Chairperson*, Marilyn Barbour, Laura Beauvais, Michael Honhart, Valerie Maier-Speredelozzi, Ann Morrissey, Norbert Mundorf, Jason Pina, Kat Quina

Members Absent: Peter Larsen, *Vice Chairperson*, Peter Alfonso, Chris Caisse, Scott Martin, Lynn McKinney, Michael Rice, Vern Wyman, Nasser Zawia

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM. Minutes of the December 6, 2011 meeting were approved.

2. Announcements

a. The Provost announced that the House Commission to Study Public Higher Education Affordability and Accessibility in Rhode Island, led by Rep. Frank Ferri (D-Dist. 22, Warwick), will be holding a public hearing on campus, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Alumni Center lounge area). He encouraged JCAP members to attend and to invite their colleagues, and expressed the hope that there would be a large showing. Representatives from Enrollment Services were planning to testify.

b. The Provost's initiative "Finish What You Started" has been covered in the local (Providence Journal) and national (USA Today) press. There has been a good response to efforts to contact roughly 280 students with 90 credits or more. 25+ will be returning this January. The Provost reported that discouragement over the job market was among the reasons for not returning for degree completion.

c. ACE is in operation on campus in White Hall (will be relocated to Taft).

3. JCAP subcommittee projects

The 4th Annual Academic Summit (co-sponsored this year by the Provost's Office and JCAP) will be held tomorrow, January 20, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. The program will include an address by keynote speaker, Leah Buechley, Assistant Professor at the MIT Media Lab where she directs the High-

Low Tech research group; an overview of interdisciplinary efforts at URI and panel discussion; and a presentation on cluster hires. RSVP's are at capacity (150). There is a waiting list for the event.

4. Updates from subcommittees

a. Metrics

Baseline data has been collected. Subcommittee is still addressing how to complete the assessment of **Goal 3: Promote existing and new interdisciplinary endeavors in faculty and student research, scholarship, and creative work that address major societal challenges and opportunities etc.**

Gary Boden, from Institutional Research, will be invited to the next JCAP meeting to present data from National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

b. Accreditation

Emails have been sent out to individuals in the self-study. VP Laura Beauvais is leading the student part and the APRC. The APRC Central Data Report has been distributed to all chairs. The department chairs' survey is ready to be administered in March. Volunteers for the self-study, Psychology and the College of Engineering, are ready to go.

c. Task Forces

The Global Task Force reports that Nancy Stricklin, formerly the URI International Admission Advisor, Admissions Office, has been appointed Assistant to the Provost for Global Strategies and Partnerships. Permanent funds are being sought for this position. She is working towards implementing recommendations from the Global Task forces and will work with ACE (Associates in Cultural Exchange) and The Office of International Education and Study Abroad, colleges, and other campus groups.

5. Progress Towards Implementation

(see above)

6. New Business:

a. Senator Barbour raised the issue of the need for refining the application process for new academic programs. Language in the Senate Manual is being reviewed and revised. The JSPC was an "approval layer" after the college but before the senate committees but there is no language in the manual about the specifics of their role [JCAP has replaced JSPC]. A discussion took place about the possible role of JCAP in the process. JCAP could be consulted during the inception stage on the relevance of proposals to the Academic Plan. The Budget Office should assess proposals at the college level, before the Council of Deans. JCAP could provide feedback and advise colleges on trends in higher education and help align proposals with professions, etc.

The subsequent role of senate committees would be to assess the academic merit of proposals.

Senator Barbour and VP Beauvais will meet with Faculty Senate Coordinator, Sheila Grubman. A proposal to amend this process will be presented at the March senate meeting. Establishing a JCAP subcommittee on Program Review was suggested.

b. The need for an ad hoc Online Advisory committee was raised. Approval issues exist in converting face-to-face GenEd courses that require speaking skills into online versions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55PM.